

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02

SP-02 IO-13 ACDA-10 USIE-00 INRE-00 /083 W

-----180352 087182 /20

O 180130Z FEB 77 ZFF6

FM USDEL SECRETARY IN CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSO DOHA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANAA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 SECTO 2034

FOR S/PRS ALSO PASS NSC FOR DR. BZREZINSKI AND

WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: SECSTATE VISIT

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FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY
PRESIDENT SADAT AND SECRETARY VANCE AFTER THEIR
MEETING THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 17. QUOTE:

Q: THERE HAS BEEN MUCH TALK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY
THAT YOU WOULD BE PRESENTING NEW IDEAS FOR A

FORMULA TO RESUME THE GENEVA CONFERENCE TO MR. VANCE. DID YOU PRESENT HIM WITH SUCH IDEAS AND IF SO, COULD YOU SHARE THEM WITH US?

A: (PRESIDENT SADAT)

WELL, LET ME SAY THIS, WE HAD A SURVEY OF THE PEACE PROCESS THAT WE HAVE STARTED TOGETHER IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE OCTOBER WAR UNTIL THIS MOMENT. I MUST TELL YOU ALSO THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS KIND ENOUGH TO SEND ME AN INVITATION, WHICH WAS HANDED TO ME BY SECRETARY VANCE, AND I HOPE I SHALL BE FULFILLING THIS VISIT. IN THE FIRST PLACE, I SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TELL YOU THAT I HAVE ASKED SECRETARY VANCE TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT CARTER OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR THE INITIATIVE THAT HE HAS ALREADY TAKEN IN HELPING US IN OUR DIFFICULT MOMENTS IN OUR ECONOMY BY ALLOTING USD 500 MILLION AS A HELP FOR THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE. IT HAS TOUCHED US DEEPLY AT HEART REALLY. IMMEDIATELY BEFORE I CAME HERE TO MEET WITH SECRETARY VANCE, IT WAS DECLARED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ALREADY TAKEN A DECISION REGARDING THIS CONCUSSION BOMB.

REALLY, IT IS A VERY POSITIVE AND CREATIVE STEP AND IT SHOWS GREAT STATESMANSHIP FROM THE SIDE OF PRESIDENT CARTER. APART FROM THIS WE HAVE DISCUSSED, AS I TOLD YOU, THE WHOLE PROBLEM FROM EVERY ASPECT.

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Q: (JOHN WALLACH - HEARST NEWSPAPERS)

HAVE YOU YOURSELF DETECTED ANY MODERATION IN THE POSITION OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION REGARDING THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST?

A: (PRESIDENT SADAT)

WELL, THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION WAS ONE OF THE QUESTIONS WE DISCUSSED, SECRETARY VANCE AND ME. IT IS FOR THE PALESTINIANS TO SEPAK FOR THEMSELVES. I CAN'T SPEAK FOR THE PALESTINIANS. BUT I WANT TO SAY ONE WORD. THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION IS THE CORE OF THE WHOLE PROBLEM. WE COULDN'T IGNORE IT.

Q: DOES ANYBODY THINK THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE COULD MEET IN MARCH AND IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY THAT THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS CONFERENCE?

A: (SECRETARY VANCE)

WITH RESPECT TO A DATE OF A GENEVA MEETING, I HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT I THINK THAT THE GREATER LIKLIHOOD OF A DATE FOR THE MEETING WOULD BE IN THE LAST HALF OF 1977. I STILL BELIEVE THAT THAT IS THE BEST ESTIMATE THAT ONE CAN MAKE. THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS WILL NOT BE UNTIL MAY OF THIS YEAR, AND ALTHOUGH I SUPPOSE ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE, I WOULD THINK IT WOULD BE UNLIKELY THAT A GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD BE HELD UNTIL AFTER THOSE ELECTIONS.

Q: (ROBERT KEATLEY - WALL STREET JOURNAL)

MR. PRESIDENT, IS EGYPT ADVISING THE PALESTINIANS TO REWRITE OR AMEND THE CONVENANT WHICH REFERS UNCLASSIFIED

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TO ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST?

A: (PRESIDENT SADAT)

YASSAR ARAFAT, THE LEADER OF THE PLO, HAD A MEETING TODAY WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY AND WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS, BECAUSE IT WAS DISCUSSED BEFORE BETWEEN SECRETARY VANCE AND SECRETARY FAHMY. AND WE DISCUSSED IT.

Q: WHEN DO YOU EXPECT TO BE IN THE STATES.
MR. PRESIDENT?

A: (PRESIDENT SADAT)

WELL, I HOPE ABOUT THE BEGINNING OF APRIL.

Q: (BERNARD GWETZMAN - NEW YORK TIMES)

DO YOU THINK IT IS POSSIBLE TO HAVE A PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE BEFORE GENEVA IN WHICH THE QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION COULD BE DISCUSSED? IN OTHER WORDS, TO HAVE A MEETING WITH THE FORMER PARTICIPANTS OF GENEVA PRESENT WITHOUT ANY ADDITIONAL PARTIEIES?

A: (PRESIDENT SADAT)

TO BE FRANK WE HAVEN'T DISCUSSED THIS ITEM.

Q: I WAS JUST ASKING YOUR OPINION.

A: (PRESIDENT SADAT)

WELL, I HOPE AFTER I VISIT AFTER SECRETARY VANCE HAS THE INFORMATION HE WANTS TO HAVE FROM

THE AREA HERE AND RETURNED TO THE STATES, I SHALL
BE VISITING, AS I TOLD YOU, ABOUT 1ST OF APRIL ..
... ABOUT THE BEGINNING OF APRIL AND MAYBE
WE CAN SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THIS BY THAT TIME.
BUT NOT BEFORE SECRETARY VANCE COLLECTS WHATEVER
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HE NEEDS IN INFORMATION FROM THE AREA.

Q: MR. FORD HAS PROPOSED THAT CONCUSSION BOMBS
PLUS AEROPLANES BE GIVEN TO ISRAEL. THE
CANCELLATION OF THIS IS ONLY INCLUDING THE
CONCUSSION BOMBS OR ALSO INCLUDES THE PLANES HE
PROMISED TO ISRAEL?

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USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

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FOR S/PRS ALSO PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI AND
WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

A: (SECRETARY VANCE)

I BELIEVE THE DECISION RELATED ONLY TO THE
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CONCUSSION BOMB. I HAVE NOT SEEN A FIRST HAND
REPORT OF WHAT WAS DECIDED TODAY, BUT IT IS
MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DECISION MERELY SAID
THAT THE CONCUSSION BOMB WOULD NOT BE MADE
AVAILABLE TO THE ISRAELIS. LET ME SAY, COULD I
JUST TAKE THIS OCCASION TO SAY HOW MUCH I
APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY WHICH I HAVE HAD TO
MEET WITH PRESIDENT SADAT, AND FOR THE VERY FULL
AND COMPLETE DISCUSSION WHICH WE HAVE HAD. IT HAS
BEEN EXTREMELY USEFUL TO ME, AND I AM VERY
APPRECIATIVE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY.

Q: MR. PRESIDENT, YOU HAVE SAID ON NUMEROUS
OCCASIONS THAT IT IS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF
EGYPTIANS TO MAKE A REAL PEACE WITH ISRAEL IN
TERMS OF TRADE AND EXCHANGE OF PEOPLE, CIVILIANS
AND IDEAS. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT IF THE CURRENT
INITIATIVES ARE SUCCESSFUL IN SECURING ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL TO '67 BOUNDARIES, OR CLOSE TO THE
'67 BOUNDARIES, AND PROVIDING GUARANTEES FOR
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN ENTITY,
THAT EGYPT, AFTER THAT ACCORD, WOULD BE WILLING
TO ENTER INTO WHAT THE ISRAELIS CALL A READL PEACE,
TRADE AND EXCHANGE OF QEOPLE AND IDEAS WITH THAT
NATION, INCLUDING DIPLOMATIC REALTIONS?

A: (PRESIDENT SADAT)
LET ME SAY THIS IN THE FIRST HAND. I DIDN'T SAY
AT ALL THAT WE ARE GOING TO POSTPONE PEACE. WHAT
I SAID, AND I SAY NOW, AND I HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED
WITH SECRETARY VANCE, WE ARE NOW FOR ESTABLISHING
PERMANENT PEACE IN THE AREA, IN A PEACE AGREEMENT
IN WHICH THE STATE OF BELLIGERENECY IS ENDED,
AFTER 28 YEARS, AND THE BORDERS ARE DEFINED,
GUARANTEES ARE GIVEN, THE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL,

THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE. I NEVER
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SAID THAT PEACE WOULD BE POSTPONED FOR THE NEXT
GENERATION. BUT I SAID THIS: WHEN I WAS ASKED
WHAT ABOUT THE DIPLOMATIC REALTIONS OR OPEN
BORDERS OR SO, I SAID, WELL, YOU CAN'T START
THIS LIKE THIS, AND YOU CAN'T WRITE IT IN A
PEACE AGREEMENT. IT HAS NVER OCCURED BEFORE.
OR IS IT SOME SORT OF IMPOSING CONDITIONS FROM
THE SIDE OF ISRAEL? THIS IS THE OLD THEORY
OF BEN GURION, TO IMPOSE PEACE N THE ARABS.
WELL, PEACE CANNOT BE IMPOSED AT ALL. PEACE
CAN BE NEGOTIATED.

Q. MR. PRESIDENT, ARE YOU SAYING THAT AT THE END
OF THIS PROCESS, IF IT IS SATISFACTORY TO YOU,
THAT EGYPT WOULD BE WILLING TO ENGAGE IN TRADE
AND EXCHANGE OF IDEAS WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL?

A: (PRESIDENT SADAT)
IT IS A MATTER OF PURE SOVEREIGNTY, MY DEAR.
WHY SHOULD YOU PLANT THIS MISUNDERSTANDING LIKE
THE ISRAELIS ARE PLANTING ALREADY? IT IS A MATTER
OF SOVEREIGNTY.

Q: YOU MENTIONED THAT MR. ARAFAT AND MR. FAHMY
THIS MORDING DISCUSSED POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE
PALESTINIAN CHARTER. WOULD YOU EXPECT ... THE
ARAB SIDE EXPECT THE CHANGES TO THAT CHARTER ...

THAT IF THE PALESTINIANS CONSIDERED SOME CHANGES
TO THAT CHARTER, THERE SHOULD ALSO BE MORE
CONCESSIONS FROM THE WESTERN SIDE, FROM THE UNITED
STATES PERHAPS, AND IF SO, WHAT FORM SHOULD THOSE
CONCESSIONS TAKE?

A: (PRESIDENT SADAT)
WELL, REGARDING THE PALESTIANS, IT IS A MATTER
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FOR THEM TO DECIDE. BUT I MUST TELL YOU THIS,
AS I TOLD SECRETARY VANCE ALSO, THAT WITHOUT THE
HELP OF THE UNITED STATES IN EVERY STEP AND EVERY
STAGE WE CAN'T ESTABLISH PEACE IN THE AREA HERE.
SOMEONE MAY BE FURIOUS AGAINST ME BUT IT IS A FACT.

I HAVE SAID BEFORE THAT NINETY-NINE PER CENT OF THE CARDS OF THIS GAME IS IN THE HANDS OF THE UNITED STATES. SO WE SEEK THE HELP OF THE UNITED STATES IN EVERY STAGE AND IN VERY FORM.

Q: DO THOSE STAGES INCLUDE TALKS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PALESTINIANS IN YOUR VIEW? IS THAT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT YOU TOLD VANCE? THAT THE UNITED STATES OUGH TO MODIFY ITS STANCE AGAINST TALKING WITH THE PLO.

A: (PRESIDENT SADAT)
WELL, I DIDN'T TELL SECRETARY VANCE ANYTHING LIKE THIS. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE WHOLE PROBLEM BUT I DIDN'T TELL HIM WHAT YOU HAVE ALREADY REFERRED TO.

Q: IF AND WHEN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS RECONVND, DO YOU FAVOR THE PLO GOING AS A SEPARATE DELEGATIION? AND IF AND WHEN THERE IS A FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT MUST THERE BE A SEPARATE PALESTINIAN STATE?

A: PRESIDENT SADAT)

WELL, I HAVE ALREADY STATED MY POSITION IN THIS. THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION IS THE CORE OF THE WHOLE PROBLEM. VERY WELL. THEY SHOULD PARTICIPATE IF YOU WANT TO REACH PERMANENT PEACE LIKE WE ARE TRYING NOW. AND I SAY THAT AN OFFICIAL AND DECLARED LINK SHOULD TAKE PLACCE BETWEEN THIS PALESTINIAN STATE AND JORDAN, EVEN BEFORE GENEVA STARTS.

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Q: MR.PRESIDENT, WHAT IS EGYPT PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PEACE PROCESS? ISRAEL YOU ASK TO WITHDRAW. WHAT IS EGYPT PREPARED TO GIVE?

A: (PRESIDENT SADAT)
I GAVE SECRETARY VANCE MY VIEW ON THIS. EGYPT IS READY ONE HUNDRED PER CENT FOR PEACE.

Q: COULD YOU BE A LITTLE MORE CONCRETE? WHAT SORT OF CONCESSIONS IS EGYPT PREPARED TO GIVE FOR PEACE?

A: (PRESIDENT SADAT)
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO SAYIN GENEVA IF WE ARE GOING TO DISCUSS HERE, NOW SUCH A THING LIKE THIS? (LAUGHTER)

Q: YOU ARE SAYING HERE THAT ISRAEL SHOULD WITHDRAW. YOU ARE SAYING THAT BEFORE GENEVA. WHAT IS EGYPT PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE?

A: (PRESIDENT SADAT)
EVERYTHING. EGYPT IS READY FOR EVERYTHING. IF ISRAEL REALLY WANTS PEACE, EGYPT IS READY FOR EVERYTHING.

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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

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Q: MR. PRESIDENT, AS I UNDERSTOOD YOU A MOMENT AGO, YOU SAID THAT AN OFFICIAL AND DECLARED LINK SHOULD

TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE PALESTINIAN STATE AND JORDAN
EVEN BEFORE A GENEVA CONFERENCE. COULD YOU EXPLAIN
MORE FULLY WHAT KIND OF LINK, AND HOW IT WOULD BE
ESTABLISHED?
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A: (PRESIDENT SADAT)
WELL, WE SHOULD LEAVE THIS FOR THE PARTIES CONCERNED,
TO THE PALESTINIANS AND KING HUSSEIN, BUT I HAVE IN
MY MIND SOME SORT OF CONFEDERATION OR SO.

Q: DO YOU EXPECT ANOTHER STEP BY STEP TO BE TAKEN
OR DO YOU EXPECT A FULL GENEVA CONFERENCE TO MEET?
BECAUSE REPORTS FROM ISRAEL WERE SAYING THAT YOU
HAVE PROPOSED A TYPE OF GENEVA CONFERENCE WHERE
THERE WOULD BE THE ISRAELIS AND THE EGYPTIANS,
THE ISRAELIS AND THE SYRIANS, AND THE ISRAELIS
AND THE JORDANIANS, WHAT IS CALLED A GENEVA-TYPE
CONFERENCE. IS THIS A CORRECT REPORT, SIR?

A: (SECRETARY VANCE)

IT IS CORRECT THAT I HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THERE BE
A GENEVA-TYPE CONFERENCE IN THE LAST HALF OF THIS
YEAR, 1977. I HAVE NOT PROPOSED THAT THERE BE
A STEP-BY-STEP ROCESS, BUT THAT WILL BE UP TO
THE PARTIES TO DECIDE.

Q: WHAT IS MEANT BY A GENEVA-TYPE?

A: (SECRETARY VANCE)

WELL, I MEAN A GENEVA CONFERENCE, A CONFERENCE TO
BE HELD AT GENEVA. LAST NIGHT, I WAS ASKED THE
SAME QUESTION, DID I DRAW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN
IT, AND I SAID I DID NOT.

Q: DOES IT MEAN THAT ALL THE PARTNERS ... ALL
THE PARTIES .. WILL BE AT THE CONFERENCE?

A: (SECRETARY VANCE)
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IT WOULD MEAN THAT THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN A

DETERMINATION PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE AS TO WHO SHOULD ATTEND - THAT IS A PROCEDURAL QUESTION - AND THAT INVITATIONS WOULD THEN BE EXTENDED AND THE PARTIES WOULD ALL ATTEND.

Q: IF THE DISPUTE OVER PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA IS NOT RESOLVED IN THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS OR MONTHS WOULD EGYPT BE PREPARED TO RENEW NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL FOR ANOTHER DISENGAGEMENT IN THE SINAI OR ON ANY OTHER NEGOTIATIONS ?

A: (PRESIDENT SADAT)
I HAVE STATED BEFORE THAT THE STEP-BY-STEP HAS ENDED, AND WE ARE NOW FOR PERMANENT PEACE AND GLOBAL SOLUTIONS.

Q:. MR. SECRETARY, YOU SAID BEFORE YOU LEFT ON THIS TRIP THAT YOU HOPED TO EXPLORE IN DEPTH THE TALK THAT THE PLO WAS MODERATING ITS POSITION. BASED ON YUR CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT TODAY, DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE SPECIFIC FEELING ABOUT THE PROBLEM?

A: (SECRETARY VANCE)
I HAVE RECEIVED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TODAY. I WISH TO COMPLETE MY VISITS WITH THE OTHER CAPITALS BEFORE I HAVE ANY FINAL ANSWER TO THE QUESTION.

Q: IF THE PLO AMENDS ITS CHARTER AND BECOMES MORE MODERATE ON THE QUESTION OF ISRAEL WOULD THE UNITED STATES THEN CHANGE ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE PLO?
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A: (SECRETARY VANCE)

I HAVE SAID THAT THE PROBLEM UP TO THIS DATE THAT HAS CONCERNED THE UNITED STATES IS THAT THE PLO HAS HAD IN ITS CONVEANT A PROVISION TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE ISRAEL AS A STATE, THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL, AND THAT THEY DID NOT RECOGNIZE THAT 242 AND 338 ARE A BASIS FOR CONVENING A CONFERENCE.

Q: ... LINKS BETWEEN A PALESTIAN STATE AND EVEN BEFORE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, WHAT IN YOUR JUDGEMENT SHOULD BE THE REALTIONSHIP OF THE

PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION TO THAT
PALESTINIAN STATE?

A: (PRESIDENT SADAT)
YOU KNOW, ACCORDING TO THE DECISION THAT WE HAVE
ALREADY TAKEN IN THE ARAB SUMMIT IN RABAT, WE
HAVE GIVEN ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY TO THE
PLO. SO THE PLO WILL BE NEGOTIATING THIS WITH
KING HUSSEIN, ABOUT THE RELATION BETWEEN
THEMSELVES AND WHATEVER QUESTION MAY BE RAISED
IN THIS FIELD. LET ME TELL YOU THIS PLEASE;
IT APPEARS THAT YOU ARE REPEATING THE QUESTION.
I MUST TELL YOU SOMETHING I BMNORE THE END OF
THIS CONFERENCE. I SIEZE THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO SEND MY DEEPEST THANKS TO PRESIDENT CARTER
FOR SENDING A DISTINGUISHED PERSONALITY,
SECRETARY VANCE. I HAVE ENJOYED, REALLY,
IMMENSELY, THE TALKS WITH HIM. HE WAS HONEST,
STRAIGHTFORWARD, AND I LIKE TO DEAL WITH HIM,
AND I HOPE THAT WE SHALL CONTINUE THE PEACE
PROCESS THAT WE HAVE STARTED ALREADY TOGETHER,
THE UNITED STATES AND EGYPT. UNQUOTE
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VANCE

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